

The Virginia Department of Health Resources for Health Care Professionals

February 2013

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News and Updates

February is National Children's Dental Health Month (NCDHM)

Each February, the American Dental Association (ADA) sponsors National Children's Dental Health Month to raise awareness about the importance of oral health. The ADA recommends that children establish a dental home by having their first dental visit by their first birthday, and continue regular dental visits every 3 - 6 months, depending on the risk of developing cavities, however, 40% of uninsured children have never been to the dentist. The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Dental Health Program addresses common barriers to preventive services for children through two programs. Both programs prioritize dental referrals to local dental offices helping to establish dental homes for those children who do not have a dentist. Additionally some VDH local health departments offer dental services for children. Contact your local health department for dental program availability. Learn more about the programs available:

- *Bright Smiles for Babies*, a fluoride varnish program that provides early preventative services to infants and toddlers 6 months to 5 years of age through WIC clinics, Head Start programs, and medical offices.
- School-Based Dental Sealant Programs provide sealants to high risk children at targeted schools. Sealants are placed on newly erupted permanent molars to prevent dental decay.

Increasing Physical Activity for those with Mobility Issues Webinar

The Virginia Department of Health Healthy Communities Program will present a free webinar on Increasing Physical Activity for those with Mobility Issues (Aged, Arthritis, and Weight Issues) in February 2013 for Heart Month. Register for the webinar by contacting Karen Whitacre, the VDH Healthy Communities Program Coordinator at Karen.whitacre@vdh.virginia.gov. Please provide your name, organization, phone number, and email address.

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Recent Clinicians' Letters

- [Use of Isoniazid During Shortages](#) (Jan 30, 2013)
 - [VDH Guidelines for Use of Isoniazid During Shortages](#)
- [Influenza Vaccination Update](#) (Jan 15, 2013)

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Monthly Healthcare-Associated Infection Updates

Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Program Update, [January Newsletter](#), topics include:

- National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) definitions
- 2013 NHSN Patient Safety Manual
- Strategies for the prevention of *Clostridium difficile* (*C. diff*) infections
- Clostridium difficile Infection in Children
- Upcoming Events:
 1. VHQC QualitySync Conference—**April 9-10** (Richmond)
 2. North Carolina-Virginia Hospital Engagement Network CUSP Boot Camp—**April 16** (TBA)

3. Virginia Department of Health Field Epidemiology Seminar—April 30 (Richmond)

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Did You Know?

Teen Dating and Violence

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's *National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey* reported that 1 in 5 women and 1 in 7 men, who have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner, first experienced some form of intimate partner violence between 11 and 17 years of age. Studies have shown that teenaged male and female victims of intimate partner violence are more likely to experience adverse health outcomes as adults.

According to the [Virginia Youth Survey](#), 12.1% of high school students have been hit, slapped or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend during the past 12 months (10.7% male and 13.4% female). VDH urges you to take time during Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month to highlight the importance of preventing this violence before it occurs and share these resources for teens and young adults that may be victims of dating violence:

- The National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline-1-866-331-9474 is available 24-hours a day and offers information and advocacy to those involved in dating abuse relationships as well as to concerned friends, parents, teachers, clergy, law enforcement and service providers.
- [Project RADAR](#)

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Influenza Surveillance

Seasonal flu guidance for 2012-2013 is available on the [VDH website](#). This week's flu report shows that we are continuing to see elevated flu activity across the state. Getting vaccinated continues to be the best - and easiest - way to stay healthy this flu season.

- [Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report \(VDH\)](#)
- [Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report \(CDC\)](#)

Influenza activity

- Virginia and states across the nation have been experiencing intermittent high levels of flu activity this season.
- The proportion of visits to emergency rooms and urgent care centers for influenza-like illness (ILI) reached a high of ~7% in late December/early January - the highest proportion observed for this time of year in the past six seasons.
- Influenza A (H3) is the predominant strain circulating, although influenza B virus is also circulating, especially in the Northwest region of Virginia.
- As of February 2nd, 143 outbreaks of influenza-like illness have been reported to the Virginia Department of Health for this flu season. Of these, approximately two-thirds (n=94) have been confirmed to be due to influenza. Nursing homes, schools (K-12), and assisted living facilities are the most common settings where the outbreaks occurred.
- Vaccination remains the best – and easiest – method of preventing influenza. According to the Virginia Immunization Information System (VIIS), so far this flu season, >800,000 Virginians have been vaccinated against flu. A recent [MMWR publication](#) estimated the effectiveness of this season's vaccine to be 62%, meaning that people who received the flu vaccine are 62 percent *less likely* to need to go to a doctor to get treated for flu.
- Drug makers have reported intermittent shortages of the pediatric formulation of oseltamivir. More information can be found on the [FDA website](#).
- To read more about influenza prevention, treatment, and immunization: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/Epidemiology/factsheets/Influenza.htm>

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Virginia Monthly Morbidity Surveillance Report by District and Region

[January 2013](#) update

View previous reports, [Morbidity Surveillance Reports](#).

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MMWR

MMWR publications are prepared by the CDC

January 25, 2013

- [Surveillance for Foodborne Disease Outbreaks — United States, 2009–2010](#)
- [Progress in Immunization Information Systems — United States, 2011](#)

- [Infant Meningococcal Vaccination: Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\) Recommendations and Rationale](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Emergence of New Norovirus Strain GII.4 Sydney — United States, 2012](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Emergency Department Visits and Hospitalizations for Buprenorphine Ingestion by Children — United States, 2010–2011](#)

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- [Ciguatera Fish Poisoning — New York City, 2010–2011](#)
- [Noninfluenza Vaccination Coverage Among Adults — United States, 2011](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Multistate Outbreak of Human *Salmonella* Typhimurium Infections Linked to Contact with Pet Hedgehogs — United States, 2011–2013](#)
- [Announcement: National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day —February 7, 2013](#)

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“Did You Know” Articles by the CDC

January 25, 2013

- With 12 new behavioral risk factors and health indicators added, the Sortable Stats 2.0 site enables you to compare multiple health outcomes over time and across states and regions.
- You can export the data for use in other materials, such as fact sheets, grant submissions, or PowerPoint presentations, and even add a Sortable Stats button to your website.
- Along with other resources on CDC’s Data to Action site, Sortable Stats can help you promote policy, systems, and environmental changes to improve health.

February 1, 2013

- *Epi Info*™ is a free tool used worldwide by public health professionals to collect, visualize, analyze, and present public health data.
- More than 181 countries use *Epi Info*, covering all continents including Antarctica; it has also been translated into more than 13 languages.
- Training resources for *Epi Info* include tutorials, a user guide, videos, and instructions on how to create the new *Epi Info* Web Survey.

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